

The Omen · Volume 46, Issue 3 IN THIS ISSUE...

Speak: Poem... 4 Mastering Skills... 5-6 Hamp Exploitation... 7-8

Lies: Platypus... 11 The Minion Crisis... 12-13

Hate: Anime Part 1... 17 The Leek Handbag... 19 Anime Part 2... 21,23

Staff Box: (In order of appearance)

Chloe: What is the question? S: What is the question? Rowan: That is the question.

Front Cover: Chloe Omelchuck Back Cover: Rowan Lupton

Submissions are due always, constantly, so submit forever. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, or email. Get your submissions to omen@hampshire.edu, or B's mailbox (1666)

Policy

The Omen is a biweekly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous. Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fan fiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

Your Omen submission (you're submitting right now, right?) might not be edited, and we can't promise any spellchecking either, so any horrendous mistakes are your fault, not ours. We do promise not to insert comical spelling mistakes in submissions to make you look foolish.

Your submission must include the name you use around campus: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. (Note: Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of the Omen editor, the Omen staff, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.)

The Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for Omen layout, which usually takes place on alternate Thursday nights in the basement of Merrill in the company of a computer with an extremely inadequate monitor. You should come. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on other Thursdays in Saga, the post office, or on the door of your mod.

Views in the Omen (5)

Do not necessarily (7)

Reflect the staff's views (5)

EDITORIAL

Chloe Anne Omelchuck

Hello Omenites!

I'm sitting here in the library so, naturally, I'm thinking about reading and thinking. It can also be blamed on my recent readings of mostly ridiculous books. I call them "nonsense" books, because they're very good, but they inspire that sense of unreality and whimsy that so often characterizes children's stories. I love those little tidbits that you weren't at all expecting:

"He was a descendent of an old New York Dutch family that had grown impoverished after his father's early death. He lived with his mother and invalid brother in a small frame house on Utopia Parkway in Queens and roamed the streets of Manhattan in seeming idleness. A devout Christian Scientist, he was a recluse and an eccentric who admired the writings of French Romantic and Symbolist poets. His great hero was Gerard de Nerval, famous for promenading the streets of Paris with a live lobster on a leash."

-Dime Store Alchemy, Charles Simic (7)

"It's no wonder that truth is stranger than fiction. Fiction has to make sense."

-Mark Twain (?)

There are also those books that you don't read precisely for enjoyment, but not for class either. They're the books that you read because they're fascinating, but they sometimes make your head spin if you read too much of them at once. Reading them is kind of like being at a large family gathering. After you've eaten all the food, talked with your family, fought with your siblings and cousins, after you've gone home (or if it's at your house, after everyone else has gone home), you sit down and take a deep breath. Exhaustion. Not tiredness, just that nice pleasant feeling of calm. I digress. It comes back to books. It's that same feeling after you finish an amazing book. Digestion.

I'm a collector of quotes, and of strange words. It's good fun to make them up, but nothing beats stumbling across a good one totally out of the blue. I often find that the best way to find interesting words (or, more importantly, words with interesting definitions), is when doing research for papers. This little tidbit, for instance, which I came across when looking for linguistic research on Yiddish:

Balagan- a word that migrated to the Hebrew language from Yiddish, means "total chaos." But this word is unique because, contrary to the implied negative value the concept has in other languages, the subtext of balagan is positive. True, that positiveness is not overt—a bit like a proud parent trying to hide a smile from his mischief-making son—but it is completely there. Yet chaos for a society that is itself full of balagan is nothing less than proof of vitality and passion. In a place where people push and shove in line, where children insist on drawing on walls and not on paper, where a briefcase holds stained income tax reports lying between a pastrami sandwich and a piece of graph paper with the beginnings of a poem on it—that's where you'll find human liberty... -The Novelist's Lexicon (2011)

It's always nice when things connect to one another. Anyway... this is probably our second to last issue of the year, so be sure to submit! Submission are due from here to infinity and can be sent pretty much any way except telepathically (it's not that I don't believe you're out there, I just don't want to have to go through the trouble of transcribing it for you. I'm not sure what I would do with a photo...). Serve the monolith, execute the student body, and all that jazz. The Omen loves you.

Semi-Official Editrix, Chloe Omelchuck

Section Speak

So what's with this one and if I wrap myself around em use my body as their armor my legs around their thighs surround their chest with my arms cover their back with my chest protect their supple breasts with these weary hands

If I hold this one's head to my chest make them a pretzel crown with my arms so that this one hears my heart beat

Will it ever mean She will?

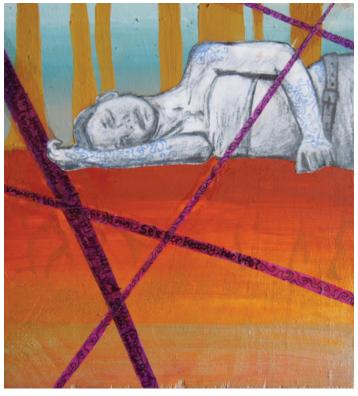
If I can
make this one forget
our native tongue— save my name
Will She
someday say it the same way

If I don't let this one or their smile mean a thing to me Will I next weekend forget Her If I wrap myself around this one will I someday hold Her If I let this one tangle their hands through my hair

Will it mean She might brush it from her face

To see me with autumn eyes

-Leon Rabokov submitted by JHF Synk



^submitted by Chloe Omelchuck

How to Master Any Skill

By Matt Rosenblum

Mastery essentially means having such a great command on a skill that you can dynamically effect the wider environment (Leonard and Greene). Dynamic effect here doesn't mean knowing everything there is to know about a skill. It just means being able to use and relate our skills to the wider world, and create impact. It means having control over our skills and what impact we want it to have.

Mastery isn't static. You don't get to the top of the mastery ladder and stop growing. A master has never learned everything there is to know about a skill, and is constantly seeking to evolve and expand. Mastery also isn't natural. We aren't born masters, we have to work and put in a lot of effort in order to become masters.

Let's say I want to master singing. I can't go in with the mindset that people are born singers, and either have it or don't. Everyone is born with different degrees of inborn talent, but talent is only a small factor in the process of mastery. Talent has to be actualized, practiced, and trained or it means nothing. Practice, commitment, and creative play are always much more important than inborn talent.

Everyone has a different voice. If we are singing, we should not be concerned with sounding like Beyonce. Our aim should be to sound like a more developed version of ourselves. Plenty of singers don't have a naturally "good" voice (Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Isaac Brock, Joanna Newsom, Bjork) yet sound beautiful because they are in touch with themselves. We can use masterful singers as inspiration, but we shouldn't try to sound like them. Whenever learning a new skill, we must stick to whatever suits our unique talents,

abilities, and personality.

There are five basic steps of mastery. The first step is instruction. Instruction here is a receiving stage. In this stage, we take classes, follow teachers, immerse ourselves in relevant environments and cultures, and read everything we can about our skill. Here, we are looking for the general principles that outline our craft of choice. We also learn the culture and theory surrounding our craft. It is essential to know the principles, theory, and culture, that outline our craft in order to eventually use our skill in a powerful way. If we are going to create anything new, we need to first respect the tradition of our craft. Without awareness of tradition and convention, we will be clueless to how our skill works, and we wouldn't be able to use our skill in a dynamic, powerful, creative, and impactful way.

The next step of mastery is passionate commitment. Passionate commitment means having a daily, ritualistic, devotional dedication to our skill. In order to get really great at anything, we need to keep doing it every day. The only way we will be motivated to do something is if we understand why we are doing something. Nothing is learned over night, rather, it is gradually internalized into our selfsystems and bodies through daily, enlivening habit. We need to have a strong enough why when mastering a skill, or we will quickly give up. Commitment also means removing everything that distracts us from learning our skill. It means surrendering completely to our skill, and cultivating a healthy obsession with it. This is the passion part of passionate commitment, because passion is whatever willingly fills up and overtakes your life.

Once we have instruction and passionate commitment, we are ready to practice the skill. The reason I am talking about mastering skills, and not mastering subjects, roles, or specific

jobs is because mastering a subject really means mastering a multitude of skills within that subject. Knowing how to navigate around the field of psychology, for instance, is surely a skill within the field of psychology. Speaking of mastering subjects, jobs, and roles is abstract and general, and far removed from concretely being able to do or create anything. Mastering skills within a domain offers far more creative potential. When practicing, we should pick one skill at a time in order to focus, and train it a little every day. Every day our ability to perform our skill will improve, and eventually we will become fluent. When we are fluent, we will be able to put our skill into creative play, which is the next stage.

Becoming fluent in one skill allows us a certain degree of creativity, but knowing many skills allows us a lot more. If I just know how to sing fluently, for instance, I can certainly sing other people's songs effectively. But if I also know how to fluently play piano, guitar, write lyrics, and compose music, I would have a much greater degree of creativity and power. I would be able to make original, complex, heartfelt songs. The fourth process starts with experimenting and playing with all the skills we have. This experimentation and play ultimately leads to creating the new. The more skills we are fluent in, the easier it is for us to create. Consequently, we should learn as many skills as we can that are interesting and relevant to us, and then put these skills into creative play. The ultimate goal of having all these skills and of mastery itself, is creating new things, whether in speech, writing, products, or performance.

The last stage in mastery is constant holistic growth. We need to see our skills as an endlessly evolving work in process. We also need to see it from a variety of perspectives, interacting with the whole of the world. It helps to know the philosophy, history, and culture, surrounding our skills not just for the sake of instruction, but so we can see and interact with

it more dynamically and creatively. We should look at our skill in aesthetic, spiritual, scientific, relational, ecological, cultural, physical, and ethical contexts in order to see the skill from all angles. We should look at it emotionally, intellectually, intuitively, objectively, subjectively, because every perspective offers its own truth and insights. We should share our creative works with a diversity of people in order to get a wide variety of feedback. Approaching our skill holistically ensures us that our skill will be as powerful and creative as it can be. Having a growth oriented approach ensures us that we will keep expanding our skills, and therefore gaining more creative power, because growth is a never ending process.

For more information on mastery, I highly recommend checking out Robert Greene and George Leonard's books, both titled "Mastery."

Works Cited Greene, Robert. Mastery. New York: Viking, 2012. Print.

Leonard, George. Mastery: The Keys to Longterm Success and Fulfillment. New York, NY: Dutton, 1991. Print.





Advice: Stay Away from Hampshire Exploitation

By: Xavier Torres-Janon

Hampshire College has exploited me. I have done too much free, invisible, unrecognized and unappreciated work for this neoliberal institution. Too many meetings that end in me doing all the work; too many Doodle Polls that I have to beg participation for; too much planning, organizing, supporting and showing up; too much problem-solving for disconnected higher-ups, myopic due to the students and stories they decide to surround themselves with. Too much putting up with the ignorant whiteness and masculinity that dominate circles of power, my energy, time and emotional capabilities drained repeatedly to the indifference of staff, supervisors, faculty, committee members, students, peers. Exploitation with no financial compensation: a neoliberal culture of unpaid internships and volunteering, of erasure and slavery. All I have are CELs and Ingenuity Awards, hollow networking and references, and a strange, erratic reputation out of my control.

And yet, despite this, Hampshire College no longer invites me to its administrative, suit-and-tie

events, common occurrences of first-year Xavier. I am no longer considered in the countless topdown committee appointments, or asked to attend tea with the President, or dinner with the Trustees. You see, despite my sacrifices and incessant work for this ungrateful school, my presence has become too disruptive, radical and 'illiberal' for meetings and discussions. Despite the fact that I hold extensive unwritten knowledge and insight given my own unpaid involvement, I am not welcome in governance spaces. Staff members actually have to advocate for me being part of panels and talks, because administration naturally cannot take criticism, although it is essential for this school to ever evolve. This, of course, does not bother me as much as dissapoint and ostracize me, my value unrecognized to the point of silencing, censoring. My graduation will be a sigh of relief, and my return to this school will be questionable.

continued on the next page...

The Omen · Volume 46, Issue 3

You could say it was my fault, and I agree: I put myself out there, said yes too many times, I agreed and 'sold out.' But why must I, again, be the one pointing my finger to this reality? Why must I remind others of my existence, of my body, of my humanity? I digress.

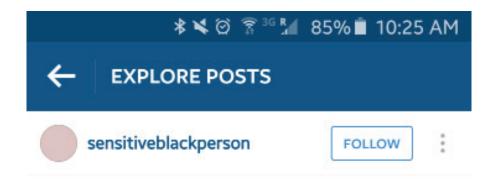
Please do not send me an apology email, or an invitation to talk. These are too late, and I no longer care. Unless you can promise me a job, food or a paycheck, I am not interested in furthering these exploitative structures. My Hampshire spirit can only take so much. I simply advise you to resist exploitation and interrupt these processes. I have learned, as always, through experience.

Commencement will be exciting.



submitted by: Caroline Steen





when ya man is telling you about his life and you gotta act like you didnt already see his natal chart







SECTION LES

PLATYPUS, NEW ZOO RESIDENT, HAS PARTY

But Rare Duck-Billed Mammal Is Too Shy to Enjoy Reception by Officials.

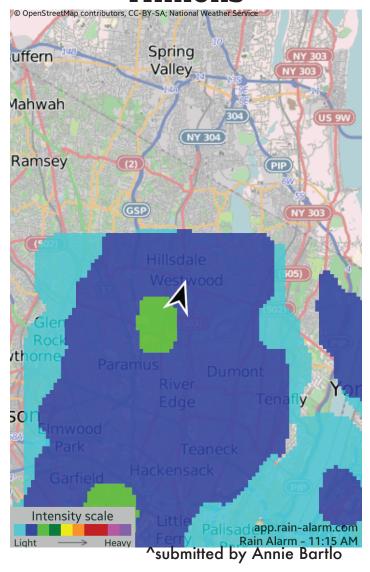
EATS A WORM FOR LUNCH

Zoo visitors were dissapointed when the highly anticipated arrival of the new Platapus, Barry, was overshadowed by the animal's unwillingness to join in the public event to welcome him. "We've been planning this welcome party for a really long time," said a zoo official. "We understand that Barry isn't used to seeing this many people, but we were hoping that he would be able to put aside his shyness for this one afternoon." The organizers say that they plan to reschedule the event for sometime this summer, hopeful that by then Barry will have overcome his stage fright. However, we decided to speak to Captain Zorro of the Quail Unit and he had a markedly different story to tell. "This may not be a matter of Barry becoming more socialized over time. Platapi are notoriously shy, it's not surprising that the zoo is having trouble." Captain Zorro has worked with Quail and even Ants for many years, creatures that, despite hefty recognition for their military and public service, are known to be some of the flightiest and timidest creatures in the animal kingdom. His assesment of Barry does not bode well for the zoo. We can only hope that he will be a standout amongst his fellow Platapi and overcome his shyness.

`submitted by Annie Bartl

The Omen · Volume 46, Issue 3

Freak Weather in Mass. Prompts Unexpected Reaction from Local Minions



It is a well-known fact that the wicked witch of the west melts in water. However, it now appears that she may have had more than one reason for fearing the weather and water. Springtime in Massachusets this year has been a wild ride of snow (always on mondays????) followed by higher temperatures and rain. At first, it was thought that this weather was simply irritating, confusing, and an sure-fire forula for procucing colds, but, as it turns out, it's much

worse than we ever imagined. Since early Sunday morning, when Massachusets residents woke up to a repectable amount of snow outside their windows, there have been odd reports of minions behaving oddly.

This strange illness does not seem to discriminate between franchise; everyone from the Hyenas from "The Lion King" to the minons from "Despicable Me" to the Orcs from "Lord of the Rings" are becoming ill. The sickness has two stages. First, the minions become despondent and flat-out refuse to do any work for their evil overlord. A spokeperson from the Witches' castle, which has been under the stewardship of the dastardly Dr. Oz since the death of the Wicked Witch of the West, released this statement:

"We're very concerned about the flying monkeys. They've begun moping around and aren't up to their usual cackling and raiding of nearby henchman villages. "I've been having trouble finding people to experiment on, not that any of the medical treatments that I reccomend to people actually benefit them that much. I just like experimenting on people... but that's beside the point. This stage of the illness has put me very behind in my evil corporate plotting...er, next show. I'm worried that it won't be ready in time."

However, this dispondence and lack of will to do evil is not the most disturbing part of this disease. The second stage is far worse. The minions essentially go crazy: going out and doing random acts of kindness.

"I'm not sure what it would do for my reputation to have my flying monkeys out helping old ladies across the street and such," said Dr. Oz. "I'm afraid that they may increase general public health and thereby hinder my evil activities."

The Minions from "Despicable Me" have already succumbed to the second stage of

the illness and they have been seen in droves in public areas assisting with all kinds of tasks. However, the public has been even less receptive to their efforts than the villans that they work for.

"After all they've done, I'm just not sure that we can trust them," said a Hobbit, who preferred to remain anonymous. "Just the other day and Orc came by and helped me with my gardening, but it was difficult to forget that not long ago they were the servants of Sauron and dead set on destoying the world. I just don't know if we can trust them to keep this peaceful existence."

Law enforcement appears to be of the same mind as the general public. "Just because these minions have turned over a new leaf doesn't mean that we can just let them roam around," said Fan Tasy O'Heara from the Commission for Supernatural and Superpowered investigation. "We mustn't forget that they have committed crimes in the past and must still answer for their actions, no matter how changed they appear to be."

^submitted by Chloe O.



justice is served



submitted by Annie Bartlo^

Repentant Minion being lead away by SWAT team while various passerby look on. The CSS estimates that over half of Minions have been taken into custody at this time.





WE ARE THE YOUTH OF THE NATION.

She considered for a moment. "In all reality, wizards are probably more powerful than witches. But since wizards are hopelessly confused by witches they've never really stood much of a chance."

"Are you saying that wizards aren't intelligent?"

"No, they're just unaccustomed to having so much logical chaos thrown at them. Think of as the same kind of effect as having a bucket of icy water thrown over your head, for a minute they just can't do anything. That's usually all a witch needs."

"To what?"

"Do it again. Keeps 'em on their toes. There's never been a wizard able to defeat a witch. They take everything too seriously. They're just not built to deal with complete and utter nonsense."

"Witches always seemed practical to me."

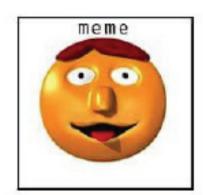
"Well, quite often practicality seems like insanity to those who like ritual."

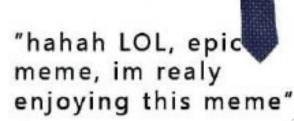


Are you a...

meme snob? or meme Bob?



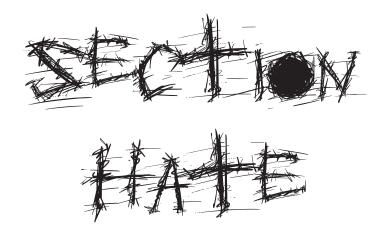


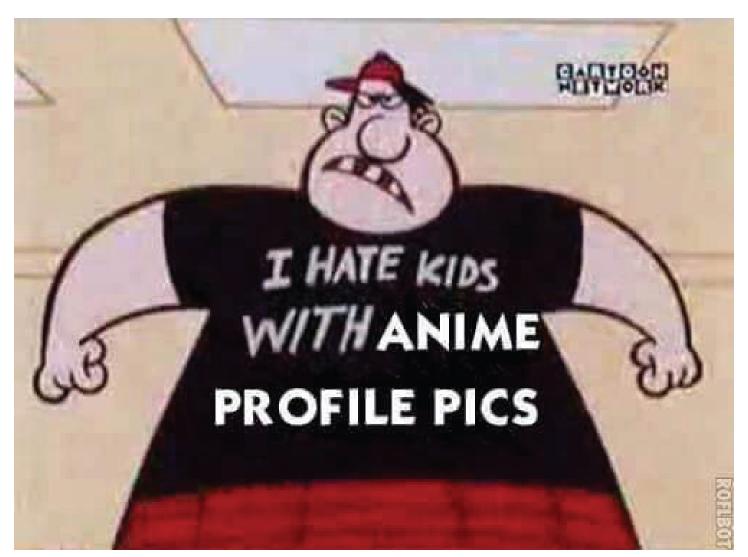


"ew, oh no i do not like that meme, it is not ironic enough"

submitted by: Annie Bartlo







submitted by Annie Bartlo^

The Omen · Volume 46, Issue 3

Dear Sir/Madam,

Monthly Stats Report: 1 Mar - 31 Mar 2016

Project: Bork.hampshire.edu ~omen URL: http://bork.hampshire.edu/~omen

Summary

	Page Loads	Unique Visits	First Time Visits	Returning Visits
Total	22	18	6	12
Average	1	1	0	0

Date	Page Loads	Unique Visits	First Time Visits	Returning Visits
Tue, 1 Mar	0	0	0	0
Wed, 2 Mar	0	0	0	0
Thu, 3 Mar	5	3	0	3
Fri, 4 Mar	2	2	2	0
Sat, 5 Mar	0	0	0	0
Sun, 6 Mar	0	0	0	0
Mon, 7 Mar	0	0	0	0
Tue, 8 Mar	0	0	0	0
Wed, 9 Mar	0	0	0	0
Thu, 10 Mar	0	0	0	0
Fri, 11 Mar	0	0	0	0
Sat, 12 Mar	1	1	1	0
Sun, 13 Mar	0	0	0	0
Mon, 14 Mar	0	0	0	0
Tue, 15 Mar	0	0	0	0
Wed, 16 Mar	0	0	0	0
	_	_	_	_



submitted by Annie Bartlo^

"You're trying to silence me."

"It's like a repeat of history."

"Except I like you better than I like your ancestors."

"You dress better too."

-Chloe O.

Addendum:

"That's paraphrasing."

"No it's not, I was just laughing inbetween."

"It's fine, it's always your voice that matters more."

The Omen · Volume 46, Issue 3

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Thu, 17 Mar	0	0	0	0
Fri, 18 Mar	0	0	0	0
Sat, 19 Mar	1	1	1	0
Sun, 20 Mar	0	0	0	0
Mon, 21 Mar	0	0	0	0
Tue, 22 Mar	4	2	0	2
Wed, 23 Mar	1	1	0	1
Thu, 24 Mar	1	1	0	1
Fri, 25 Mar	0	0	0	0
Sat, 26 Mar	1	1	0	1
Sun, 27 Mar	0	0	0	0
Mon, 28 Mar	6	6	2	4
Tue, 29 Mar	0	0	0	0
Wed, 30 Mar	0	0	0	0
Thu, 31 Mar	0	0	0	0



pet peeves:

- -people who unironically talk about star signs
- -people who ironically talk about star signs
- -star signs
- -people

4/7/16, 21:31

1 LIKE ^submitted by: Rowan Lupton

[-] FireworksNtsunderes 17 points 7 months ago

I use this image for skype, this for steam, and this as a phone wallpaper.

I don't really five a shit about having anime pictures, and it isn't as if they are particularly cringy. Anybody on skype is a friend, everyone on my steam is a bunch of nerds playing dota 2, and my phone is my phone. I typically change my steam pic the most, pretty much to whatever girl I like the most in what ever thing I am watching/reading.

permalink

submitted by: Rowan Lupton



Contract I, I AM A GOD, exist. T, IAMA GOD, swear to tell the truth the whole truth I nothing but the truth. I, I AM AGOD, am feeling blue. [Legal stuff here.] I, I AMA GOD, am bad accents. The Undersigned: I AM AGOD Dominic Sanchez



^submitted by: Rowan Lupton



Lovely day, isn't it?

There are weapons hidden all over my body. Just so you know...